



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

to be held on

Thursday, 20 April 2023 at 5:30pm

at the

**Shire of Morawa Council Chambers,
26 Winfield Street, Morawa**



WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S
WILDFLOWER COUNTRY

'This meeting is being recorded on audio tape and to assist with minute taking purposes. The public is reminded that in accordance with Section 6.16 of the Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012 that nobody shall use any visual or vocal recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of Council without the written permission of the presiding member.'

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DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL/ IMPARTIALITY/ PROXIMITY INTERESTS

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 5.65, 5.70 and 5.71 Local Government (Administration) Regulation 34C

<i>This form is provided to enable members and officers to disclose an Interest in a matter in accordance with the regulations of Section 5.65, 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act and Local Government (Administration) Regulation 34C</i>			
Name of person declaring the interest			
Position			
Date of Meeting			
Type of Meeting (Please circle one)	Council Meeting/ Committee Meeting/ Special Council Meeting Workshop/ Public Agenda Briefing/ Confidential Briefing		
Interest Disclosed			
Item Number and Title			
Nature of Interest			
Type of Interest (please circle one)	Financial	Proximity	Impartiality
Interest Disclosed			
Item Number and Title			
Nature of Interest			
Type of Interest (please circle one)	Financial	Proximity	Impartiality
Interest Disclosed			
Item Number and Title			
Nature of Interest			
Type of Interest (please circle one)	Financial	Proximity	Impartiality

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Important Note:

Should you declare a **Financial** or **Proximity** Interest, in accordance with the Act and Regulations noted above, you are required to leave the room while the item is being considered.

For an **Impartiality** Interest, you must state the following prior to the consideration of the item:

“With regard to agenda item (read item number and title), I disclose that I have an impartiality interest because (read your reason for interest). As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly.”

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Item 1 Opening of Meeting

The President declared the meeting open at 5:33pm.

Item 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Dignitaries

The President acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Yamatji people, and recognises the contribution of Yamatji elder's past, present and future, in working together for the future of Morawa.

Item 3 Recording of Attendance**3.1 Attendance****Council**

Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes

Councillor Debbie Collins

Councillor Shirley Katona

Council – Electronic Attendance

President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel

Councillor Jane Coaker

Councillor Yvette Harris

Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Scott Wildgoose

Executive Manager Works & Assets

Paul Devcic

Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

Jackie Hawkins

Members of the Public

Nil

3.2 Apologies

Councillor Mark Coaker

3.4 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

3.5 Disclosure of Interests

Nil

Item 4 Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

Item 5 Response to Previous Questions

Nil

Item 6 Public Question Time

Important note:

'The public is reminded that in accordance with Section 6.16 of the Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012 that nobody shall use any visual or vocal recording device or instrument to record the proceedings of Council without the written permission of the presiding member.'

Members of the public are also reminded that in accordance with section 6.17(4) of the Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012 mobile telephones must be switched off and not used during the meeting.'

6.1 Public Question Time

Nil

6.2 Public Statement Time

Nil

6.3 Petitions/Deputations/Presentations/Submissions

Nil

Item 7 Questions from Members without Notice

Nil

Item 8 Announcements by Presiding Member without Discussion

President's Meetings for the month of March 2023.

Date	Details of Meeting
1 March 2023	State Council
2 March 2023	LGIS Board Meeting
8-9 March 2023	WALGA Roads and Transport Forum
9 March 2023	Shire of Morawa – Agenda Settlement
16 March 2023	LGIS Workshop
16 March 2023	Shire of Morawa – Ordinary Council Meeting
20 March 2023	State Bushfire Advisory Council - Quarterly Meeting
23 March 2023	ALGA Board meeting - Canberra
24 March 2023	Teams Meeting with Shire of Toodyay to discuss GP Services and motions to NGA
24 March 2023	Morawa Harmony Week Celebration

The President thanked Mr Paul Devcic for his service to the Shire of Morawa.

Item 9 Declaration by all Members to have given due consideration to All Matters Contained in the Business Paper before the Meeting

The Elected Members to declare that they had given due consideration to all matters contained in the agenda.

- President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel
- Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes
- Councillor Jane Coaker
- Councillor Debbie Collins
- Councillor Yvette Harris
- Councillor Shirley Katona

Item 10 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 16 March 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting were provided under separate cover via the Shire of Morawa's secure portal to all Councillors on 20 March 2023.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**230401****Moved: Cr Collins****Seconded: Cr J Coaker****That Council confirm that:**

- 1. the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 March 2023 are a true and correct record.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0*Disclaimer*

Members of the public are cautioned against taking any action on Council decisions, on items in this agenda in which they may have an interest, until formal notification in writing from the Shire has been received. Decisions made at this meeting can be revoked pursuant to the Local Government Act 1995.

Item 11 Reports of Officers**11.1 Chief Executive Officer****11.1.1 Actions Performed under Delegated Authority for March 2023**

Author: Executive Assistant

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author/Authorising Officer declares that they do not have any conflict of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**230402****Moved: Cr Katona****Seconded: Cr Harris**

That with respect to Actions Performed under Delegated Authority for March 2023, Council:

- 1. Accept the Report.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

To report back to Council, actions performed under delegated authority from the period 01 March 2023 to 31 March 2023.

DETAIL

To increase transparency this report has been prepared for Council and includes all actions performed under delegated authority for –

- Development Approvals;
- Building Permits;
- Health Approvals;
- One off delegations to the Chief Executive Officer;
- Dangerous Goods;
- Affixing of Common Seal;
- Other Delegations as provided for in the Delegations Register.

The following outlines the actions performed within the Shire relative to Delegated Authority from the period 01 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 ('the period') and are submitted to Council for information.

Bushfire

Date of decision	Decision Ref.	Decision details	Applicant	Other affected person(s)
9/3/2023	Approved	Extension of Prohibited Burning Time	BFAC	

Caravan parks and campgrounds

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to caravan parks and camping grounds during the period.

Common Seal

The Shire's Common Seal was applied to the Lease with the Sporting Shooters Association.

Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to Dangerous Goods Safety matters during the period.

Food Act 2008

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to the Food Act matters during the period.

Hawkers, traders, and stall holders

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to Hawkers, traders, and stall holders during this period.

Liquor Control Act 1988

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to liquor matters during the period.

Lodging houses

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to lodging house matters during the period.

Public Buildings

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to public buildings matters during the period.

Septic Tank Approvals

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to the Health Act 1911 and Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent Waste) Regulations 1974 during the period.

Planning Approval

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to *Planning & Development Act 2005* during the period.

Building Permits

Date of decision	Decision Ref.	Decision details	Applicant	Other affected person(s)
02/03/23	221000	Cyclone remediation works	292 Valentine Road	
03/03/23	230157	Cyclone remediation works	28 Caulfield Road	
10/03/23	230176	Cyclone remediation works	3574 Mingenew-Morawa Road	
22/03/23	230208	Cyclone remediation works	628 Jones Lake Road	
22/03/23	230207	Cyclone remediation works	1048 Jones Lake Road	

Other Delegations

No other delegated decision was undertaken by Shire pursuant to this category during the period.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low – report provided to Council for information purposes.

CONSULTATION

Nil

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Building Act 2011

Bushfire Act 1954

Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007

Health Act 1991

Health Act 1911

Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992

Liquor Control Act 1988

Local Government Act 1995

Planning & Development Act 2005

Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No. 2

Shire of Morawa Cemeteries 2018 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Dogs 2018 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Extractive Industries 2018 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Fencing 2018 Local Law

Shire of Morawa Health 2004 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Public Places and Local Government Property 2018 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures 2012 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Waste 2018 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Delegations Register (2020)

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no known financial implications relating to this Item.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no known risk management implications relating to this Item.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.1.2 Shire of Morawa Corporate Business Plan 2023-2033

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**230403****Moved: Cr Collins****Seconded: Cr Stokes****That Council:**

- 1. Adopt the Shire of Morawa Corporate Business Plan 2023-2033, as per the contents provided in Attachment 1.**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

For Council to review the revised Corporate Business Plan for adoption.

DETAIL

The Shire of Morawa's current corporate business plan is a four-year plan covering the period 2019-2023. The plan was directly driven by the Strategic Community Plan and had several strategies and actions detailed within it. Several items were aspirational and required further support to be fully achieved, whilst others were statements around ongoing projects such as GP and Dental support that will form Shire business as usual operations (BAU).

The Shire of Morawa adopted its Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032 in August 2022, and as required under regulation the new Corporate Business Plan (attachment 2) demonstrates priorities and projects aligned to the Aspirations identified through the Community Plan process.

The new version of the Corporate Business Plan has a greater emphasis on integrating strategic priorities with resource availability, including asset management and long-term financial planning.

The Corporate Business Plan 2023-2033 as presented, provides a 10 year overview with a 5 year direct focus, thus providing information around known needs and projects, and still extrapolating across a 10 year timeframe to understand resource impacts.

The strategic nature of the document means the Shire is willing to accept a Financial Overview bottom line of plus or minus \$100,000 to account for estimation and final modifications during the annual budget process.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Medium significance

CONSULTATION

Council Concept Forum
Senior Management Team

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

19DA. Corporate business plans, requirements for (Act s. 5.56)

(1) A local government is to ensure that a corporate business plan is made for its district in accordance with this regulation in respect of each financial year after the financial year ending 30 June 2013.

(2) A corporate business plan for a district is to cover the period specified in the plan, which is to be at least 4 financial years.

(3) A corporate business plan for a district is to —

(a) set out, consistently with any relevant priorities set out in the strategic community plan for the district, a local government's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community in the district; and

(b) govern a local government's internal business planning by expressing a local government's priorities by reference to operations that are within the capacity of the local government's resources; and

(c) develop and integrate matters relating to resources, including asset management, workforce planning and long-term financial planning.

(4) A local government is to review the current corporate business plan for its district every year.

(5) A local government may modify a corporate business plan, including extending the period the plan is made in respect of and modifying the plan if required because of modification of the local government's strategic community plan.

(6) A council is to consider a corporate business plan, or modifications of such a plan, submitted to it and is to determine* whether or not to adopt the plan or the modifications.

*Absolute majority required.

(7) If a corporate business plan is, or modifications of a corporate business plan are, adopted by the council, the plan or modified

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of items in the Corporate Business Plan does not guarantee budget inclusion but provides strong guidance to the administration to guide budget development.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Developing a resource focussed Corporate Business Plan reduces the risk of over allocating resources with a short-term mindset.

Strategic items of value outside the Shire's resource constraints have been identified as grant dependent. This works towards providing more realistic expectations, that reduces the risk of misunderstanding and disincentivising community members.

CONCLUSION

Significant community consultation and strategic planning was undertaken in 2022, and this 2023 version of the Corporate Business Plan provides a Shire focused document that will allow the Shire to utilize its resources to assist the community to deliver upon its vision for the future.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.2a Review of outcomes from Corporate Business Plan 2019-2023

Attachment 2 – 11.1.2b Shire of Morawa Corporate Business Plan 2023-2033

11.1.3 Early Childhood Education and Care in Morawa

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**230404****Moved: Cr Harris****Seconded: Cr J Coaker**

That Council:

- 1. Direct the CEO to further develop the ECEC centre concept utilising a collaborative approach to scope the facility, develop a cost estimate, construct the business case, and identify funding opportunities to present back to Council before December 2023.**
- 2. Support the CEO undertaking a market analysis/expression of interest of potential ECEC service providers and allowing Council and other key stakeholders to meet with organisations with capabilities in this field.**
- 3. Support the CEO and Shire President engaging the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister Punch, and Minister Winton in terms of their relevant State and Federal Government portfolios to seek support for this initiative and potential funding towards service development costs. This request for support would also extend to other State and Federal ministerial representatives who represent the region regardless of their portfolios of interest.**
- 4. Acknowledge the continued importance of the current family day care service and offer support for its continuation during ECEC development discussions.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

For Council to review Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Morawa.

DETAIL

The Morawa Shire has had a strong involvement in the education space within the District and broader area for a number of years. The Shire, Morawa District High School (MDHS) and the WA College of Agriculture Morawa (WACOA-M), formed the Morawa Education and Industry Training Alliance (MEITA) several years ago. In 2015/2016 due to a broader scope of enhancing the viability of schools and the quality of education for all children in the North Midlands, MEITA grew to become the North Midlands Education and Industry Training Alliance (NMEITA).

The ten-year education and training plan for Morawa Shire and the wider North Midlands Region

developed by NMEITA in 2016 highlighted Early Childhood Education as a key issue affecting the area. At this stage the recommendations to address this area centred around a Child and Parent Centre (Family Centre) to be built on the school site, early intervention initiatives for children entering kindergarten, and the continuation of the Family Day Care model. Many of the Early Childhood recommendations sat with the MDHS to implement, however this has become beyond their scope and capabilities given their focus on school aged children.

In general children in the Mid West are believed to be more developmentally vulnerable, with the 2015 NMEITA plan showing the region to be 8% worse off than the state average in terms of the number of vulnerable children.

Early years education, and routine can play a key role in development outcomes. Overtime the role of ECEC centres has expanded beyond what was traditionally thought of as day care, and now has a much more child development led program at many sites.

The Shire of Morawa currently has two sites (on the same block of land) capable of supporting a family day care (FDC) operator. Historically, Morawa has only had one business operating at a time, but the provider has had to apply for an extension allowance to support more than the 4 standard FDC places – thus allowing the provider to have between 6 and 7 kids depending on ages. FDC providers currently can operate when working towards a Certificate 3 qualification, however from July this qualification will become mandatory.

The current FDC centres are both ageing and in need of renewal expenditure.

ECEC centres generally require at least one Diploma qualified educator in order to operate and can often take more children of a more varied age range depending on the size of the facility and the number of qualified employees.

Morawa has a new FDC provider that commenced on 3 April 2023. They are new to the industry and have limited the space to 4 children for the initial commencement of their business.

During the FDC provider transition period, the Shire had communication with both MDHS and WACOA-M about how importance childcare was for their workers and the potential impacts the loss of service would have on them.

Whilst the new provider is operating, they are not currently servicing the needs of the entire community and there is suggestions that the demand from working parents could accommodate two FDC providers.

In May 2022, the Shire requested quotations to conduct a needs analysis around the potential for the development of an ECEC facility in Morawa. Jill Cameron and Associates were chosen to undertake the analysis due to their experience and knowledge in the Early Childhood sector. The final needs analysis report is attached to this report (attachment 1).

When considering the future, the report suggests:

- The current FDC facilities in Morawa are unlikely to remain fit for purpose and up to national standards in the medium to long term
- Contemporary and modern ECEC facilities are playing an important role in attracting staff and new residents to country areas
- The Australian Early Development Census shows small population areas have more developmentally vulnerable children, and this is prevalent in the Morawa/Perenjori area. 33.3% of children are deemed vulnerable in the school based skills areas such as language and cognitive skills according to the 2021 AEDC Community profile for Morawa/Perenjori.

- The establishment of an ECEC facility would assist with reducing development vulnerability, would offer more services to the Indigenous community than family day care, and could accommodate more children should suitable workers exist.
- The retention of FDC services during the development of an ECEC centre is critical.
- ECEC centre location on the school grounds
- A 19 place centre managed by a not-for-profit approved provider
- Develop an upskilling initiative for the local community to assist with an employee pool for the ECEC centre.
- Bridging the Gap initiatives and funding available in the Indigenous space provide an opportunity to add further value to the project.

After receiving the Needs Analysis Report the Shire CEO met with the MDHS Principal who championed the need for an ECEC centre and the positive effects that it could bring to the community. The MDHS Principal has written a letter of support (attachment 2) for this project.

The development of an ECEC centre in Morawa is likely to be heavily grant reliant. To give the process the greatest possible chance of funding success a collaborative approach is suggested.

The Shire CEO seeks Council approval to form a working group consisting of MDHS, MEEDAC, Playgroup, and other relevant stakeholders to:

- Identify a suitable site for a ECEC centre.
- Scope what the centre would require.
- Appoint a suitably qualified Architect to design and cost estimate a suitable facility.
- Engage with State and Federal government representatives about potential funding sources.

The CEO will conduct a market analysis of potential ECEC operators and provide an overview to the working group and Council who can then meet with potential operators to understand what the delivery model would be should a ECEC centre be built.

Due to the CEO currently sitting on the Board of Regional Early Education and Development Inc (REED), a not-for-profit operating ECEC centres in country areas, he will restrict his involvement in the delivery discussions. At this stage the CEO believes REED may be the only feasible delivery option for an ECEC centre in Morawa, given they run the Perenjori, Mingenew, and Northampton centres. This is a voluntary role, and the CEO has no financial gain from any mergers undertaken by REED.

An ECEC/related family centre type initiative has been an idea for a number of years for Morawa and with potential new Federal funding initiatives, if the Shire can scope the project correctly over the next 6-12 months, the project may well attract significant funding given its outcomes meet a number of government focus areas.

Minister Punch as State minister of Regional Development, and Minister Winton, as State minister of Early Childhood Education, Child Protection, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, and Community Services, have both shown interest in the WA regional area child care service and may see value in this project.

Hon Dr Anne Aly MP is the Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education, and her current electorate is in WA which provides potentially more access to her portfolio than in previous years.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Medium significance

CONSULTATION

Jill Cameron and Associates
Morawa District High School

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The ECEC sector is heavily legislated, and this will be a strong consideration should the development of a centre progress.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that the scoping of this project and associated business case development for a grant application would cost approximately \$50,000.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

This project has been identified by the community and strategic planning, and the risk to the Shire is if the FDC facilities become unfeasible before a new centre is developed it may jeopardise services and the local economy.

CONCLUSION

That Council supports the further development of the ECEC centre concept including facility scoping and design, working group establishment, provider engagement, and business case development for a funding application.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.3a ECEC Final Needs Analysis Report
Attachment 2 – 11.1.3b Morawa District High School Letter of Support

11.1.4 Tree Farm Development Application

Author: Planning Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**230405****Moved: Cr Stokes****Seconded: Cr Katona**

That Council: Grant Development Approval for the establishment of a 'Tree Farm' on Lots 125 & 6122 Neates Road, Merkanooka (known as the Bellaranga – Ancroft Environmental Planting Project) subject to the following conditions;

- 1. Development shall be in accordance with the approved plans dated 20 April 2023 and subject to any modifications required as a consequence of any conditions of this approval. The endorsed plans shall not be modified or altered without the prior written approval of the local government – minor modifications may be approved by the Chief Executive Officer if deemed in line with this approval.**
- 2. Any additions to or change of use of any part of the land (not the subject of this consent/approval) considered by the Shire Chief Executive Officer to represent a significant variation from the approved development plan may require further application and planning approval for that use/addition.**
- 3. The Applicant shall adhere to the Bellaranga – Ancroft Environmental Planting Project dated March 2023 including any modifications required by this approval or any such changes requested in writing by the Shire Chief Executive Officer or in the case of a dispute by the determination of Council as to the ongoing operation of the development;**
- 4. Prior to commencement of the approved development/land use, the Applicant is to prepare a Bushfire/Fire Management Plan following the format of 'Fire Management Plans', outlined in the FESA Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection 2011 (*as amended), and including local government firebreak notices. The Plan shall include a bushfire hazard assessment prepared by a suitable qualified Bushfire Practitioner, so as to comply with State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas;**
- 5. The Applicant is to implement and maintain reporting mechanisms for complaints concerning the operation of the development. In the event of a substantiated complaint being received, the Applicant is required to demonstrate mitigations response/s to the approval of the local government. Such responses/s will be treated as conditions of approval/required modifications to the Bellaranga – Ancroft Environmental Planting Project and Fire Management Plan 'Ballamore Farm';**
- 6. The Applicant shall ensure the Project Establishment Plan is inclusive of vermin control measures that is to the satisfaction of the local government before the**

commencement of the tree farm;

7. Any soils disturbed or deposited on-site shall be stabilised to the approval of the local government;
8. The use hereby permitted shall not cause injury to or prejudicially affect the amenity of the locality by reason of the emission of smoke, dust, fumes, odour, noise, vibration, waste product or otherwise;
9. The applicant shall obtain any necessary Native Vegetation Clearing Permit from the Department of Environment, if required;
10. Repairing of any damage to the road network including the surface is required by reason of use of the road in connection with the establishment of the development to the approval of Main Roads WA and the Local Government with all costs met by the Applicant;
11. Application of Nutrient Fertiliser, Pesticides and Herbicides to be undertaken to the approval of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; and
12. Authorise delegation to the Chief Executive Officer for the preparation and execution of the Firebreak/Fire Management Plan, with any disputes to be referred back to Council for final determination.

Advice Notes

Note 1: The Bellaranga – Ancroft Environmental Planting Project and Fire Management Plan shall be prepared and periodically updated with regard for the, 'Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia (FPC 2014), Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection (DFES 2011), Code of Practice for use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in WA (DPIRD 2005) and superseding documents and documents of subsequent relevance.

Note 2: If the development/use the subject of this approval is not substantially commenced within a period of 2 years, or another period specified in the approval after the date of determination, the approval will lapse and be of no further effect.

Note 3. Where an approval has so lapsed, no development must be carried out without the further approval of the local government having first been sought and obtained.

Note 4. If an applicant or owner is aggrieved by this determination, there is a right of review by the State Administrative Tribunal in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2005 Part 14. An application must be made within 28 days of determination.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

An Application for Development Approval has been received for the proposed Bellaranga – Ancroft Environmental Planting Project 'Tree Farm' from Global Ag Properties II Pty Ltd upon Lots 125 and Lot 6122 Neates Road, Merkanooka.

The Applicant is seeking Council's determination in relation to the Tree Farm proposal which is for the purpose of creating Australian Carbon Credit Units and high-quality hardwood whilst still maintaining agricultural activities on the property known as 'Bellaranga'.

DETAIL

Global Ag Properties II Pty Ltd as trustee for the Global Ag Properties II Australia Trust (Global Ag II) is the Landowner of the "Bellaranga" property, Neates Road, Merkanooka. The property comprises of 18,491.85 hectares and its boundary is located approximately 4.1km south-west of the Morawa townsite.

Global Ag II is proposing to use 124.29 hectares of the property to generate Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) under the Federal Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) that has been established pursuant to the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 (Cth). More specifically, the project will fall under the scope of the Reforestation by Environmental or Mallee Plantings Methodology Determination 2014.

The remaining 18,367.56 ha of the property will continue to support broadacre cropping activities. The planting is considered complementary to continuing activities.

The application was advertised, with notices sent to adjoining landowners, for a period of 14 days from 8 March to 22 March 2023 in accordance with Section 64 of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015. No submissions were received.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Medium significance

CONSULTATION

Richard Ryan - Community Emergency Services Manager Shires of Morawa Murchison Perenjori Yalgoo

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Planning and Development Act 2005

Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No.3

The land is zoned 'Rural' under Local Planning Scheme No.3 with the objectives of the zone being:

- To provide for the maintenance or enhancement of specific local rural character.
- To protect broad acre agricultural activities such as cropping and grazing and intensive uses such as horticulture as primary uses, with other rural pursuits and rural industries as secondary uses in circumstances where they demonstrate compatibility with the primary use.
- To maintain and enhance the environmental qualities of the landscape, vegetation, soils and water bodies, to protect sensitive areas especially the natural valley and watercourse systems from damage.
- To provide for the operation and development of existing, future and potential rural land uses by limiting the introduction of sensitive land uses in the Rural zone.

- To provide for a range of non-rural land uses where they have demonstrated benefit and are compatible with surrounding rural uses.

The use 'Tree Farm' is listed as a 'D' use in the Scheme which means that the use is not permitted unless the local government has exercised its discretion by granting development approval. A 'Tree Farm' is defined within the Scheme as follows:

'Tree Farm' means land used commercially for tree production where trees are planted in blocks of more than one hectare, including land in respect of which a carbon right is registered under the Carbon Rights Act 2003 section 5'.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

State: SPP 3.7 – Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas

The intent of this State policy is to implement effective, risk-based land use planning and development to preserve life and reduce the impact of bushfire on property and infrastructure.

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Avoid any increase in the threat of bushfire to people, property, and infrastructure. The preservation of life and the management of bushfire impact are paramount.
- Reduce vulnerability to bushfire through the identification and consideration of bushfire risks in decision-making at all stages of the planning and development process.
- Ensure that higher order strategic planning documents, strategic planning proposals, subdivision and development applications take into account bushfire protection requirements and include specified bushfire protection measures.
- Achieve an appropriate balance between bushfire risk management measures and biodiversity conservation values, environmental protection and biodiversity management and landscape amenity, with consideration of the potential impacts of climate change.

As there will be no landowner permanently on site and to comply with the State planning policy when developing the Bushfire/Fire Management Plan for the Tree Farm, it is considered appropriate that a bushfire hazard assessment be undertaken by a suitably qualified Bushfire Practitioner and be included as part of the Plan.

Local: Shire of Morawa Local Planning Strategy – 2023

The Shire's Local Planning Strategy applies to the Morawa townsite and immediate surrounds and forms the basis for development of a long-term strategic plan for the future development and growth of the Shire.

Local: Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection (DFES 2011)

The objective of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection provides "both local government and the plantation industry with a set of best practice fire protection standards for plantation that aim to protect human life and local community interests, while minimizing fire risk to plantation assets."

Further detail is provided within the publication and Section 2 Planning for Plantation Fire Management which outlines specific conditions to be included by Applicants when developing their Bushfire/Fire Management Plans.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The Applicant has paid a development application fee of \$800.00.

Should Council determine to refuse this application and the Applicant proceeds to exercise their right of appeal, costs are likely to be imposed on the Shire through its involvement in the appeal process.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Given the majority of the land area in question remains allocated to broadacre farming uses, the approval of this minor portion for a tree farm is unlikely to impact on the Agricultural exploits and broadacre nature of rural zoned land.

The main risk is associated with bushfire and the unmanned nature of the site. This is proposed to be managed by way of an adequate Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

CONCLUSION

That Council approve the Application for Development Approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.4a Bellaranga Change of Land Use - Proposed Tree Farm Application

11.1.5 Date Change for June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**230406****Moved: Cr Stokes****Seconded: Cr J Coaker****That Council:**

- 1. Accept the change of date for the June 2023 Ordinary Meeting, from Thursday, 15 June 2023 to Thursday, 22 June 2023.**
- 2. Direct the CEO to provide Local Public Notice for the date change.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

REASONING

The Australian Local Government Association, National General Assembly is due to be held in Canberra from 13 – 16 June 2023. Both the Shire President and CEO will be out of office during this period, attending the event in person. Additionally, the WA Day Public Holiday is to be observed on Monday, 3 June 2023, impacting the timeframe to form the June Agenda. Therefore, it is proposed to delay the June 2023 OCM by one (1) week.

11.2 Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

11.2.1 Statement of Financial Activity – March 2023

Author: Corporate & Community Services Officer

Authorising Officer: Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

230407

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Cr J Coaker

That Council receive:

1. the Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 31 March 2023.
2. the Bank Reconciliation Report for period ending 31 March 2023.
3. the attached List of Payments for the period ending 31 March 2023.
4. with respect to the Chief Executive Officer authorisations and reporting to Council;
4.1 Reimbursement applications made by the Chief Executive Officer
for the period ending 31 March 2023.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

The Statement of Financial Activity is prepared to provide Council with a comprehensive report on the financial position on a monthly basis.

The Statement of Financial Activity Report will include the Monthly Financial Report, Bank Reconciliation Report and the List of Payments made.

DETAIL

In accordance with the provisions of Section 6.4 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 34(1) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, a local government is to prepare each month a Statement of Financial Activity (**Attachment 1**) reporting on the revenue and expenditure as set out in the Annual Budget each month.

Under the regulations the report must include the following items,

- Annual Budget estimates
- Budget estimates to the end of the month to which the statement relates,
- Actual amounts of expenditure, revenue, and income.

- Material variances between budget and actual
- Net current assets
- The report is to be accompanied by documents containing an explanation of the net current assets, material variances and other relevant supporting documentation.

As part of the monthly report a bank reconciliation report will be completed and included as **Attachment 2**. The summary of the report for 31 March is as follows:

Account	Balance
Municipal Account	1,375,678.69
Municipal Online Account	1,037,092.03
Trust Account	8,474.23
Reserve Account	4,214,878.87
Term Deposits (Reserves)	2,100,000.00
Total Cash & Investments	\$8,736,123.82

Pursuant to Section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council has resolved to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to make payments from the municipal and trust funds.

As a result of this delegation there is a requirement under the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* – Reg 13(3) for a list of payments to be prepared and presented to Council.

The list of accounts paid for the period 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023 is presented as an attachment to this report (**Attachment 3**) and is summarised in the table below.

Bank	Payment Description	Amount
Municipal	Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)	800,902.03
Municipal	Cheques No: 12047	58,851.31
Municipal	Direct Debit Transactions	101,397.02
Municipal	Bank Transfers / Payroll / Other Payments	188,006.59
Municipal	Corporate Credit Cards	2,099.31
Trust	Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)	0.00
	TOTAL	\$1,151,256.26

Reimbursement Applications

There have been \$0 of reimbursements claimed and no days of leave taken by the Chief Executive Officer during the month of March.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low significance - report is presented to Council for information purposes only.

CONSULTATION

Chief Executive Officer
Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

There are significant changes to the total cash balances with the Municipal bank decreasing by 38 percent which equates to over eight hundred and forty-two thousand dollars. The spendings were a result of the Rural roads grant programs reaching significant milestones. There were also 2 orders made for diesel compared to the standard one, borehole drilling and an upfront payment for the caravan park disability toilets project.

Reserve transfers were made according to the reserve funds policy during March, with some transfers yet to be done due to project completion dates and delivery of plant. The bank reconciliation shows a 53 percent increase in bank transfers due to 3 pay periods falling in the month of March, this directly effects the direct debits and to a lesser extent the EFT's due to superannuation payments.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 5.42 *Local Government Act 1995* Delegation of some powers and duties to the CEO.

Section 2.7 of the *Local Government Act 1995* states:

Role of council

- (1) The council —
 - (a) governs the local government's affairs; and
 - (b) is responsible for the performance of the local government's functions.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the council is to —
 - (a) oversee the allocation of the local government's finances and resources; and
 - (b) determine the local government's policies.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Regulations 34(1)

- (1) A local Government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d) for each month.

Regulation 13

- (1) If the local government has delegated authority to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month.
- (3) A list prepared under sub regulation (1) or (2) is to be –
 - (a) presented to the council at the next ordinary meeting of the council after the list is prepared; and
 - (b) recorded in the minutes of that meeting

Procurement Policy

Use of Corporate Credit Card Policy

CEO Leave Authorisations and Other Approvals Policy

Strategic Community Plan 2023 - 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

1. Ensure the Shire and its assets are well resourced and sustainable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

As presented.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The risks identified as part of this report being inaccurate information is mitigated by Council receiving financial statements on a monthly basis and in the form that is in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and associated regulations in the format called Statutory Reporting and is considered Low Risk.

CONCLUSION

Council is requested to receive the attached Statement of Financial Activity, the Bank Reconciliation report, the list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer and the list of any work-related expenses/reimbursements submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.2.1a Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 31 March 2023

Attachment 2 – 11.2.1b Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 March 2023

Attachment 3 – 11.2.1c List of Accounts Paid for the period ending 31 March 2023

11.3 Executive Manager Works & Assets

Nil

Item 12 Reports from Committees**12.1 March 2023 Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting****Author:** Chief Executive Officer**Authorising Officer:** Chief Executive Officer**Disclosure of Interest:** The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION****230408****Moved: Cr Stokes****Seconded: Cr Harris****That Council receive:**

- 1. the Minutes of the WALGA State Council Meeting held 1 March 2023.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0*Attachment 1 – 12.1a Minutes of WALGA State Council Meeting, 1 March 2023*

Item 13 Motions of Which Previous Notice Has Been Given

Nil

Item 14 New Business of an Urgent Nature

Nil

Item 15 Matters for Which the Meeting May Be Closed (Confidential Items)

Nil

Item 16 Closure

16.1 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Thursday, 18 May 2023 commencing at 5.30pm.

16.2 Closure

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 5:43pm.